

### Assessing State and Local Regulations to Reduce Dental Mercury Emissions

Tuesday, July 8, 2008  
2:30 p.m.  
2154 Rayburn  
Washington, D.C. 20515

This hearing will examine existing state and local government initiatives and regulations aimed at reducing dental mercury emissions, evaluate their success, and document the lessons learned. This hearing follows up on concerns raised during the Subcommittee's first hearing on environmental risks of and regulatory responses to mercury dental fillings, in November 2007.

Elemental mercury and most of its compounds are extremely toxic substances that can cause chronic and acute poisoning in human beings who come into contact with them. Young children and unborn fetuses are particularly susceptible to mercury poisoning. Today, improper disposal of mercury into wastewater by industries and persons who use it has caused dangerously high contamination levels in many of the country's water bodies. This problem has become so widespread that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) now recommends that women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant within the next one or two years, as well as young children avoid eating more than 6 ounces (one average meal) of fish per week.

Witnesses for the hearing include:

#### Panel One

**Mr. Michael Bender**, Director, Mercury Policy Project  
**Dr. Rich Fischer**, Former President, International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology  
**Mr. Curt McCormick**, Former Administrator, EPA Region 8, Pretreatment Coordinator  
**Mr. William Walsh**, Counsel, American Dental Association

#### Panel Two

**Ms. Pat Magnusson**, Industrial Waste Investigator, King County, Seattle

**Ms. Ann Farrell**, Director, Central Contra Costa County Sanitary District, Engineering Department

**Dr. Marc Smith**, Deputy Director, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection & Co-chair, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Mercury Task Force

**Mr. Owen Boyd**, CEO, Solmetex

### Documents and Links

- [Testimony of Mr. Michael Bender](#)
- [Testimony of Dr. Richard Fischer](#)
- [Testimony of Mr. Curt McCormick](#)
- [Testimony of Mr. William Walsh](#)
- [Testimony of Ms. Patricia Magnuson](#)
- [Testimony of Ms. Ann Farrell](#)
- [Testimony of Dr. C. Mark Smith](#)
- [Testimony of Mr. Owen Boyd](#)
- [Chairman Kucinich Opening Statement](#)